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Attorney Docket No. 44342.014000

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of: MATSUYAMA, S., et al

SERIAL NO.: 09/913,521

Group Art Unit: 1635

FILED: August 13, 2002

Examiner: ANGELL, J.

**FOR: CHAIN-SHORTENED POLYNUCLEOTIDE AND METHOD FOR
PREPARATION THEREOF**

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AMENDMENT AND RESPONSE UNDER 37 CFR 1.111

In response to the USPTO Official Action mailed on January 7, 2003, please amend the above-identified application as follows:

In the Claims

Please amend claims 6, 7, 8, and 10 as follows:

6. (Amended) A polynucleotide or salt thereof in which the average chain length is between 0.1 k bases and 1 k bases, characterized in that the proportion of a 2'-5' phosphodiester bond is in the range of about 0.1% to 3% based on the total number of phosphodiester bonds.

7. (Amended) The polynucleotide or salt thereof according to any one of claims 1, 2 and 6, wherein the polynucleotide is polyinosinic acid or an analogue thereof, polycytidyllic acid or an analogue thereof, polyadenylic acid or an analogue thereof, polyuridyllic acid or an analogue thereof.

8. (Amended) A polynucleotide or salt thereof according to any one of Claims 1, 2, or 6 which is in form of a double stranded polynucleotide or salt thereof formed from two polynucleotides or salts thereof which are capable of forming a double strand.